

House Resolution No. 469

Whereas, it is with tremendous pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their diverse legislative activities in order to acknowledge achievement realized through the compassion and commitment demonstrated by March of Dimes volunteers; and

Whereas, founded in 1938 as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the March of Dimes enjoys an exceptional reputation for the fervor of its more than three million volunteers, its mission to eliminate birth defects and infant mortality through prevention and innovative approaches to maternal and child health care, and its unparalleled support for the development of a vaccine that has virtually eliminated polio; and

Whereas, early in its history the March of Dimes cherished its productive association with then-President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who was intimately familiar with polio and whose portrait graced the front of the dime coin following his death in 1945; and

Whereas, the March of Dimes assumed its contemporary name after famed radio announcer and vaudeville comedian Eddie Cantor urged his listeners to send their spare dimes to the White House in financial support of one of the few disease eradication projects to actually complete its lofty goals; and

Whereas, after funding the research of ten Nobel Prize recipients and bringing millions of dollars to the state of Missouri, the March of Dimes will further its efforts by initiating a national five-year Prematurity Campaign in 2003; and

Whereas, the Greater Missouri March of Dimes is the lead agency for the St. Louis Maternal, Child and Family Health Coalition and a highly respected advocate for expanding the state's newborn screening program and for maintaining current funding and eligibility levels for pregnant women and infants under the State Children's Health Insurance Program:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to extend a warm welcome to the March of Dimes volunteers who will visit the Missouri State Capitol on Wednesday, February 19, 2003, and to express to them this legislative body's deepest gratitude for their steadfast dedication to the organization's historic mission and for their past, present, and future endeavors on behalf of mothers and babies everywhere; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of March of Dimes volunteers, as an expression of admiration and respect to their work.

Offered by Speaker Catherine L. Hanaway
District No. 87

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 469, adopted February 24, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker